

CONTENTS OF VOL. VIII.

| | |
|---|---------|
| NUMBER I. & II., FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY. | |
| State Normal School, | 1 |
| Appointment of John D. Philbrick as Principal, | 2 |
| Normal Schools in Massachusetts, | 3 |
| New York State Normal School at Albany, | 4 |
| Normal School in Philadelphia, | 4 |
| Normal School in Michigan, | 4 |
| Inquiries respecting a School, | 5 |
| REPORT ON EDUCATION IN EUROPE, | 16-80 |
| NUMBER III., IV., V., VI. & VII., FOR MARCH, APRIL, MAY, JUNE AND JULY. | |
| Circular of Superintendent. | 19 |
| American Institute of Instruction, | 20 |
| State Teachers' Association, | 20 |
| Anniversary Exercises of State Normal School, | 20 |
| Teachers' Institutes for 1853, | 20 |
| REPORT ON EDUCATION IN EUROPE, (continued,) | 81-256 |
| NUMBER VIII., FOR AUGUST. | |
| Legislation respecting Schools and Education in 1853, | 21 |
| Remarks of William D. Shipman, in the House of Representatives, on the Normal School, | 23 |
| Contents of Educational Documents submitted to the General Assembly, 1853, | 27 |
| NUMBER IX., FOR SEPTEMBER. | |
| An appeal to the Teachers of Connecticut, | 29 |
| Proceedings of Meeting of State Teachers' Association at New Haven, August 18th, 19th, | 34 |
| and 20th, | 34 |
| REPORT ON EDUCATION IN EUROPE, | 257-400 |
| NUMBER X., FOR OCTOBER. | |
| Anniversary Exercises of State Normal School, | 37 |
| Remarks of Governor Seymour, | 41 |
| Teachers' Institutes, | 42 |
| NUMBER XI., FOR NOVEMBER. | |
| Fourth Annual Circular of the Trustees of State Normal School, | 45 |
| Establishment and Organization, | 45 |
| Faculty of Instruction, | 46 |
| Admission of Pupils, | 47 |
| Form of application, | 47 |
| Course of Instruction, | 49 |
| Text-Books—Apparatus—Library, | 49 |
| Terms and Vacations—Board, | 49 |
| Discipline—Examination—Diploma, | 50 |
| New Britain High School, | 51 |
| Directions for making plaster black-wall, | 52 |
| NUMBER XII., FOR DECEMBER. | |
| Address of Superintendent, on closing his connection with the Connecticut Common School | 53 |
| Journal, | 53 |
| Contents of Vol. VIII., | 54 |
| REPORT ON EDUCATION IN EUROPE, | 401-894 |
| Title Page. | |
| Preface. | |
| Table of Contents, | 7 |
| Index to subjects, and Names treated of, | 11 |
| Title of Reports and Documents on Common Schools and means of Popular Education, | |
| by Henry Barnard, | 896 |

C I R C U L A R .

To School Officers, Teachers, and Friends of Educational Improvement in Connecticut.

Your attention is respectfully requested to the following statement.

THE REPORT ON EDUCATION IN EUROPE by Henry Barnard, Superintendent of Common Schools in Connecticut, a volume of 896 closely printed pages,—of which the Preface, Table of Contents and Index to subjects treated of, are herewith transmitted for your examination—was prepared with special reference to aid the cause of educational improvement in this State. To secure its more general dissemination in the different School Societies, the undersigned is authorized to publish an edition of 3000 copies, which will be furnished, neatly and strongly bound, in packages of not less than five, or more than twenty copies for any one society, *at one dollar per copy*, (which is less than one half the actual cost of publication,) until the edition is exhausted.

It is the wish of the author that the report should be widely disseminated, and to secure that, the undersigned is authorized to present a copy to the person in each society who will procure at least one subscriber for each district, or order at least one copy for a library, or teacher, or school officer in each school district in such society.

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54.

FREDERICK B. PERKINS,

No. 10 Post Office Building.

Hartford, December 31, 1853.

PREFACE.

THE following pages were, in part, published in 1851, under the title of "Normal Schools and other Institutions, Agencies and Means designed for the Professional Education of Teachers." They were prepared from observations made during a tour in Europe in 1835-6, and from documents subsequently collected, from time to time, to assist the undersigned in maturing his own views and plans for the improvement of common schools, and particularly in devising modes of operating beneficially for the advancement of the teachers' profession, in the States of Rhode Island and Connecticut.

The author has availed himself of a recent visit to Europe, to extend his inquiries, and collect additional documents, not only respecting the training of teachers, but in every department of the educational field, and particularly respecting agricultural schools, and institutions for juvenile delinquents. The results are embodied in this new edition of his original work, the title of which is changed, so as to convey a more adequate idea of its contents.

To the results of his own observations and study of documents, he is able, by permission of the gentlemen named, to add freely from the elaborate and valuable reports of Prof. Calvin E. Stowe, D. D., to the Legislature of Ohio, in 1837, of President Alexander Dallas Bache, LL. D., to the Trustees of the Girard College of Orphans in Philadelphia, in 1839, of Hon. Horace Mann, LL. D., to the Massachusetts Board of Education in 1846, and of Joseph Kay, Esq., Traveling Bachelor of the University of Oxford, in 1850, on the subjects treated of in this volume. Without claiming any

thing for his own labors, the undersigned feels authorized in saying that the present edition contains more reliable statistics and fuller information respecting the whole subject of public education in Europe, than can be found in any one volume in the English language, or in any number of volumes easily accessible to any large number of American teachers and educators.

It embodies information which can be made available in organizing new, and improving existing systems of public instruction, and particularly institutions and agencies, designed for the education of teachers in every state of the Union. Its value does not consist in conveying the speculations and limited experience of the author, but the matured views and varied experience of wise statesmen, educators, and teachers, in perfecting the organization and administration of educational systems and institutions, through a succession of years, under the most diverse circumstances of government, society, and religion.

The experience and views of the undersigned, as to the organization and administration of a system of public education adapted to the peculiar circumstances and wants of our own country, will be presented to the public in the course of another year, under the title of "*National Education ; or, Contributions to the History and Improvement of Common Schools, and other means of Popular Education in the United States.*"

HENRY BARNARD.

CONTENTS

OF

EDUCATION IN EUROPE.

BY HENRY BARNARD.

| GERMANY. | Page. | PRUSSIA. | Page. |
|---|-------|---|-------|
| History of Education,..... | 17 | History of Primary Instruction,..... | 81 |
| Parochial Schools,..... | 18 | Outline of System,..... | 86 |
| Public Schools,..... | 19 | Statistics of Primary Education in 1848,..... | 88 |
| Martin Luther,..... | 19 | Remarks on Progress of Primary Schools,..... | 89 |
| Augustus Herman Franke,..... | 21 | Subjects and Methods of Instruction,..... | 91 |
| Orphan-House at Halle,..... | 21 | Elementary Schools,..... | 91 |
| Basedow,..... | 25 | Burgher Schools,..... | 92 |
| Pestalozzi,..... | 25 | Higher Town Schools,..... | 92 |
| Zeller,..... | 29 | Text-books,..... | 93 |
| Centennial Birth-day of Pestalozzi,..... | 30 | School Examinations,..... | 93 |
| Progress of Normal Schools,..... | 31 | Results in practical working of System according to Mr. Kay,..... | 94 |
| General features of the School Systems,..... | 32 | Education of young children, universal,..... | 94 |
| Table. Normal Schools in Germany in 1848,..... | 34 | School Attendance,..... | 95 |
| Results of the Normal School System,..... | 35 | Children employed in factories,..... | 96 |
| Testimony of Professor Stowe,..... | 39 | Voluntary System prior to 1819,..... | 97 |
| " President Bache,..... | 39 | Schools where the people are of one faith,..... | 98 |
| " Mr. Mann,..... | 45 | " " " " different do. | 98 |
| " Rev. Dr. Ryerson,..... | 45 | Mixed Schools,..... | 99 |
| " Professor Stephens,..... | 46 | Duties of School Committee,..... | 99 |
| Course of Instruction in Primary Schools,..... | 49 | Schools in large towns and cities,..... | 101 |
| For children between ages of six and eight,..... | 50 | Advantages of large schools,..... | 102 |
| Conversation—Lesson on Objects,..... | 51 | School-houses,..... | 103 |
| Elements of Reading,..... | 51 | Superior Primary Schools,..... | 105 |
| " Writing,..... | 52 | Real Schools, Gymnasias, Endowed Schools,..... | 105 |
| " Numbers—Arithmetic,..... | 52 | Large landed Proprietors,..... | 106 |
| For children between ages of eight and ten,..... | 52 | Lancasterian Method,..... | 106 |
| Exercises in Reading,..... | 52 | Paid Monitors or Assistants,..... | 107 |
| Exercises in Writing,..... | 53 | Text-books,..... | 109 |
| Moral and Religious Instruction,..... | 53 | Suggestive Character of the Methods,..... | 110 |
| Language or Grammar,..... | 54 | Interest of Children in their Studies,..... | 111 |
| Number or Arithmetic,..... | 56 | Specimens of Schools of different grades, from | |
| Doctrine of Space and Form,..... | 55 | Dr. Bache's Report,..... | 112 |
| Singing by Note,..... | 55 | Burgher School at Halle,..... | 112 |
| For children from ten to twelve,..... | 55 | Military Orphan-House at Annaburg,..... | 115 |
| Exercises in Reading and Elocution,..... | 55 | Public Schools of Berlin,..... | 118 |
| Writing introductory to Drawing,..... | 55 | Elementary Schools,..... | 118 |
| Bible History,..... | 55 | Burgher Schools,..... | 123 |
| Language and Grammar,..... | 55 | Dorothean Higher City School of Berlin,..... | 124 |
| Knowledge of Nature,..... | 56 | Model School of Teachers' Seminary,..... | 127 |
| Arithmetic,..... | 57 | Seminary School at Weissenfels,..... | 123 |
| Geometry—Doctrine of Magnitudes,..... | 57 | Higher Burgher School of Potsdam,..... | 135 |
| Singing and Science of Vocal Music,..... | 57 | Secondary Instruction in Prussia,..... | 139 |
| Children from twelve to fourteen,..... | 57 | Admission of pupils,..... | 139 |
| Religious Instruction,..... | 58 | Subjects of Instruction,..... | 140 |
| Knowledge of Nature and Mankind,..... | 58 | Distribution of Teachers,..... | 141 |
| Language or Exercises in Composition,..... | 59 | Number of hours of Recitation,..... | 141 |
| Application of Arithmetic to Business,..... | 59 | Plan of Studies,..... | 141 |
| Elements of Drawing,..... | 59 | Study out of School Hours,..... | 141 |
| Exercises in Singing and science of Music,..... | 60 | Duration of courses,..... | 141 |
| Extracts from Report of Hon. H. Mann,..... | 60 | Examination for University,..... | 144 |
| Classification,..... | 60 | Supposed defects of Teachers,..... | 144 |
| Methods of teaching young children,..... | 60 | Physical Education,..... | 144 |
| Arithmetic and Mathematics,..... | 63 | Religious Education,..... | 145 |
| Grammar and Composition,..... | 64 | Discipline,..... | 145 |
| Writing and Drawing,..... | 66 | Motives to Study,..... | 145 |
| Geography,..... | 68 | Regulations for Final Examination,..... | 146 |
| Exercises in Thinking,..... | 70 | Frederick William Gymnasium of Berlin,..... | 148 |
| Knowledge of Nature,..... | 71 | Royal Real School,..... | 152 |
| Knowledge of the World, and Society,..... | 72 | City Trade School,..... | 155 |
| Bible History and Bible Knowledge,..... | 73 | Institute of Arts,..... | 159 |
| Music,..... | 74 | Legal Provision respecting Teachers,..... | 165 |
| Testimony of Joseph Kay, Esq., as to the practical working of the Prim. Sch. of Germany,..... | 74 | Testimony of Mr. Kay,..... | 169 |

| | Page. | | Page. |
|--|-------|---|-------|
| Social Condition,..... | 170 | Subject of Instruction in the Normal Schools,..... | 305 |
| Educational Advantages,..... | 172 | Institute of Agriculture at Hohenheim,..... | 307 |
| Schools Preparatory to Normal Schools,..... | 171 | | |
| Examination on entering,..... | 172 | HESSE CASSEL AND NASSAU. | |
| " for Diploma as Teachers,..... | 173 | Educational Statistics,..... | 311 |
| Teachers are Public Officers,..... | 174 | Normal Seminary at Schluchtern,..... | 312 |
| Salaries fixed, and payment certain,..... | 176 | | |
| Female Teachers,..... | 178 | BAVARIA. | |
| Teachers' Conferences,..... | 179 | System of Primary Schools,..... | 313 |
| Pensions to old and invalid teachers,..... | 181 | Normal Seminary at Bamberg,..... | 314 |
| Widows and Orphans of deceased teachers,..... | 182 | Plan of Seminary by Jacobi,..... | 314 |
| Educational Periodicals,..... | 182 | Educational Statistics,..... | 315 |
| Teachers' Seminary, or Normal Colleges,..... | 183 | Mr. Kay's Estimate of Public Schools,..... | 316 |
| Conditions and Examinations for entering,..... | 185 | Dr. Grazer's System of Instruction,..... | 319 |
| Intellectual Training of a Seminary,..... | 186 | Common School at Bayreuth,..... | 320 |
| Industrial Training,..... | 187 | | |
| Diploma,..... | 188 | AUSTRIA. | |
| Location and Number of Normal Schools in | | System of Public Instruction,..... | 325 |
| 1846,..... | 190 | " Popular Schools,..... | 325 |
| Small Normal Schools of Lastadie,..... | 191 | " Upper Schools,..... | 326 |
| Small Normal School of Pyritz,..... | 194 | " Commercial Academies,..... | 326 |
| Normal School of Potsdam,..... | 197 | " High Schools for Girls,..... | 326 |
| Normal Schools at Brühl,..... | 207 | " Gymnasien,..... | 325 |
| Normal Seminary in Eisleben,..... | 218 | System of Inspection,..... | 329 |
| Seminary for Teachers at Weinsenfels,..... | 219 | Regulations respecting Teachers,..... | 331 |
| Seminary for Teachers of City, at Berlin,..... | 223 | System of Normal Schools,..... | 333 |
| Normal Schools for Female Teachers,..... | 235 | Polytechnic Institute at Vienna,..... | 335 |
| Seminary at Marienweider,..... | 236 | Statistics of Elementary Schools,..... | 338 |
| Diaconissen Anstalt at Kaiserswerth,..... | 236 | " Secondary Schools,..... | 339 |
| Prussian Schools, a few years ago,..... | 241 | " Superior,..... | 339 |
| School Counselor Dinter,..... | 242 | " Academies of Science,..... | 340 |
| Journal of an Institute, or Conference of | | | |
| Teachers,..... | 243 | SWITZERLAND. | |
| School Counselor Bernhardt,..... | 243 | Outline of Educational Institutions,..... | 341 |
| Bernard Overberg,..... | 245 | Reconciliation of Difference of Relig. Belief,..... | 341 |
| C. B. Zeller—the Influence of Example,..... | 253 | School Attendance made Compulsory,..... | 342 |
| Self-examination—by Beckendorf,..... | 254 | Education of Teachers,..... | 344 |
| | | Manual Labor in Normal Schools,..... | 344 |
| SAXONY. | | Vehrl's Opinions on the Habits of Teachers,..... | 345 |
| System of Primary Instruction,..... | 257 | Course of Instruction in Primary Schools,..... | 346 |
| Institution for Superannuated Teachers,..... | 259 | Religious Exercises,..... | 347 |
| Statistics of Schools,..... | 260 | Local Inspection of Schools,..... | 347 |
| Royal Seminary for Teachers at Dresden,..... | 261 | Results of the Education of the People,..... | 348 |
| Examination for Teachers' Diplomas,..... | 262 | Education of Girls in Catholic Seminaries,..... | 348 |
| Protection of Teachers' Rights,..... | 265 | Condition of the Peasantry,..... | 349 |
| Compulsory Attendance at School,..... | 266 | Pauperism and Ignorance,..... | 350 |
| School Buildings,..... | 267 | Educational Establishment at Hofwyl,..... | 351 |
| Primary Schools of Dresden,..... | 268 | Emanuel Fellenberg,..... | 351 |
| Saxon Sunday Schools,..... | 269 | Fellenberg's Principles of Education,..... | 354 |
| Plan of Sunday School at Dresden,..... | 271 | " Subjects of Study,..... | 354 |
| Public Examination of the Schools,..... | 271 | " Moral Education,..... | 355 |
| Fletcher Normal Seminary at Dresden,..... | 272 | " Intellectual Education,..... | 355 |
| Burgher School at Leipzig,..... | 273 | " Physical Education,..... | 356 |
| Plan of Instruction,..... | 275 | Normal Course for Teachers at Hofwyl,..... | 357 |
| Public Schools of Leipzig and Dresden,..... | 278 | Berne Cantonal Society for Teachers,..... | 364 |
| Secondary Education in Saxony,..... | 279 | Normal School at Kruitlingen-Thurgova,..... | 367 |
| Blochmann-Vitzthum Gymnasium at Dresden,..... | 280 | Educational Views of Vehrl,..... | 369 |
| School of Mines at Freyberg,..... | 289 | Programme—Course of Study,..... | 372 |
| | | Normal School at Kussnacht, Zurich,..... | 373 |
| BADEN. | | Programme of Studies,..... | 376 |
| School Authorities,..... | 293 | Norm. School at Lausanne—Cant. of Vaud,..... | 378 |
| System of Primary Schools,..... | 293 | Normal School at Lucerne,..... | 380 |
| Educational Statistics of Baden,..... | 293 | | |
| " School Attendance,..... | 296 | FRANCE. | |
| " Internal Organization,..... | 299 | History of Popular Education,..... | 381 |
| " Plan of Instruction,..... | 299 | Ordinances of National Convention,..... | 381 |
| Evening Classes,..... | 292 | Decrees of Napoleon,..... | 381 |
| Sunday Classes,..... | 297 | Law of the Government of Louis Philippe,..... | 382 |
| Industrial Instruction,..... | 297 | Report of Victor Cousin,..... | 382 |
| Education of Children employed in Factories,..... | 297 | Speech of M. Guizot,..... | 387 |
| Teachers' Conferences,..... | 298 | Degrees of Primary Instruction,..... | 387 |
| Normal Seminary at Carlsruhe,..... | 299 | Local and State Inspection,..... | 388 |
| | | Professional Education of Teachers,..... | 389 |
| WIRTEMBERG. | | Mission of the Teacher,..... | 389 |
| Educational Statistics,..... | 301 | Society of Elementary Instruction,..... | 390 |
| System of Primary Schools,..... | 301 | Outline of system of Public Instruct. in 1850,..... | 391 |
| Denzel's Introduction to the Art of Teaching,..... | 303 | University of France,..... | 391 |
| Normal Seminary at Esslingen,..... | 310 | | |
| Normal Seminary at Nürtingen,..... | 306 | | |

| | Page. | BELGIUM. | Page. |
|---|-------|---|-------|
| Council of Public Instruction, | 391 | History of Public Instruction, | 583 |
| Academies, | 391 | Outline of System adopted in 1842, | 585 |
| Royal Colleges, | 392 | Primary Schools, | 586 |
| System of Pub. Competition for Professorship, | 392 | Secondary, | 587 |
| System of Primary Instruction, | 393 | Superior, | 588 |
| School Attendance, | 393 | Special and Industrial, | 588 |
| Local Management, | 393 | Industrial Education, | 588 |
| Examination of Teachers, | 393 | Normal Instruction, | 591 |
| Departmental Inspection, | 394 | Teachers' Conferences, | 592 |
| Education of Teachers, | 394 | Normal School, | 594 |
| Course of Instruction, | 395 | Reform School at Ruyselede, | 555 |
| Teachers' Associations, | 395 | | |
| Fund for Relief of Aged Teachers, | 395 | | |
| Governmental Prizes to Masters, | 395 | | |
| Expenditures for School-houses, | 395 | | |
| Schools embraced in the University of France, | 396 | | |
| Primary Education in the Communes, | 397 | | |
| Number of Primary Sch. belong. to each Sect, | 397 | | |
| Attendance in Primary Schools, | 398 | | |
| Classes for Adults, and Apprentices, | 399 | | |
| Statistics of Normal Schools, | 399 | | |
| State of Secondary Education, | 400 | | |
| Primary Education in department of Tarn, | 401 | | |
| Institutions for Special Instruction, | 405 | | |
| Industrial Instruction, | 406 | | |
| History of Normal Schools in France, | 413 | | |
| Abbe de Lasalle in 1681, | 413 | | |
| Normal School of Paris, 1794, | 413 | | |
| Normal Class of Strasbourg in 1811, | 414 | | |
| Report of Cousin in 1832, | 415 | | |
| Plan framed by Guizot in 1833, | 421 | | |
| Number of schools in 1849, | 424 | | |
| Conferences of Teachers, | 425 | | |
| Libraries of Teachers, | 427 | | |
| Pecuniary condition of Teachers, | 430 | | |
| Institute of Christian Brothers, | 435 | | |
| Life of John Baptist de Lasalle, | 435 | | |
| Regulations of Institute, | 442 | | |
| Primary Normal School at Versailles, | 447 | | |
| " " " " Dijon, | 449 | | |
| Secondary Normal School of Paris, | 451 | | |
| Polytechnic School of France, | 457 | | |
| School of Engineers, | 462 | | |
| School of Roads and Bridges, | 462 | | |
| School of Mines, | 462 | | |
| Central School of Arts and Manufactures, | 453 | | |
| Agricultural Education in France, | 467 | | |
| Model Farm Schools, | 468 | | |
| Regional Schools of Agriculture, | 469 | | |
| National Agronomic Institute, | 470 | | |
| Veterinary Schools, | 471 | | |
| Reform Farm Schools, | 474 | | |
| Agricultural School at Grignon, | 475 | | |
| " " " " Grand Jouan, | 485 | | |
| Farm Schools for Juvenile Delinquents, | 487 | | |
| " " " " in Switzerland, | 487 | | |
| " " " " Wittenberg, | 489 | | |
| " " " " Hamburg, | 490 | | |
| " " " " France, | 492 | | |
| " " " " Belgium, | 496 | | |
| " " " " England, | 497 | | |
| Conference respecting Reform schools, | 497 | | |
| Remarks of D. M. Hill, | 498 | | |
| Rev. W. E. Osborn, Bath Prison, | 502 | | |
| Rev. S. Turner, Red Hill Farm School, | 504 | | |
| Rev. John Clay, House of Correction, | 505 | | |
| Rev. T. Carter, Liverpool Jail, | 508 | | |
| Rev. F. Bishop, Liverpool Domestic Mission, | 510 | | |
| W. Locke, Ragged School Union, | 511 | | |
| A. Thompson, Aberdeen Indust. Schools, | 512 | | |
| Rev. H. T. Powell, Warwick Asylum, | 515 | | |
| Redemption Institute at Hamburg, | 517 | | |
| Visit to, by Prof. Stowe, | 527 | | |
| " " Mr. Mann, | 528 | | |
| Agricultural Reform School at Mettray, | 533 | | |
| Horticultural Reform School at Petit-Bourg, | 549 | | |
| Prison of La Roquette in Paris, | 553 | | |
| Reform School at Ruyselede in Belgium, | 557 | | |
| Philanthropic Soc. Farm School at Red Hill, | 578 | | |
| | | HOLLAND. | |
| | | History of Primary Instruction, | 595 |
| | | Outline of System. School Inspection, | 595 |
| | | Regulations as to examination of teachers, | 601 |
| | | " " " school inspectors, | 603 |
| | | " " " general order of Primary Schools, | 605 |
| | | Regulations respecting Religious Instruction, | 606 |
| | | Table. Primary Education in 1846, | 608 |
| | | Primary School at the Hague, | 619 |
| | | " " Normal School at Haarlem, | 617 |
| | | HAMBURG. | |
| | | Rauen-Hause, or Redemption Institute at Horn, | 517 |
| | | DENMARK. | |
| | | Outline of System of Public Education, | 619 |
| | | SWEDEN. | |
| | | Outline of System of Public Education, | 621 |
| | | NORWAY. | |
| | | Outline of System of Public Education, | 623 |
| | | RUSSIA. | |
| | | History of Public Instruction, | 625 |
| | | Statistics of schools in 1850, | 627 |
| | | GREECE. | |
| | | Outline of System, and Statistics in 1852, | 633 |
| | | ITALY. | |
| | | Outline of System in Lombardy and Venice, | 635 |
| | | " " " " Sardinia, | 640 |
| | | " " " " Tuscany, | 643 |
| | | " " " " Rome, | 644 |
| | | " " " " Naples, | 645 |
| | | SPAIN. | |
| | | Regulations respecting Normal Schools, | 647 |
| | | PORTUGAL. | |
| | | Outline and Statistics of Public Education, | 645 |
| | | SCOTLAND. | |
| | | History of Parochial Schools, | 651 |
| | | Normal School of the Church of Scotland, | 661 |
| | | " " School of Free Church, | 671 |
| | | IRELAND. | |
| | | History of National Education, | 677 |
| | | Legislation of Henry VIII, | 685 |
| | | Protestant Charter Schools, | 677 |
| | | Kildare Place Society, | 689 |
| | | Commissioners of English Parliament, | 678 |
| | | " " National Education, | 766 |
| | | Results of the System, | 679 |
| | | 1. Attendance of Cath. and Prot. children, | 679 |
| | | 2. Teachers, | 680 |
| | | 3. Different grades of schools, | 685 |
| | | 4. School-houses, | 680 |
| | | 5. School-books, | 680 |

| | Page. | | Page. |
|--|-------|---|-------|
| 6. System of Inspection..... | 689 | Normal School of British and Foreign School | |
| 7. Appropriations..... | 690 | Society..... | 761 |
| 8. Influence on England..... | 691 | Normal Department for Young Men..... | 763 |
| Training Department and Model Schools, .. | 693 | Course of Conversational Reading..... | 775 |
| Agricultural Education..... | 699 | Questions to test a School..... | 777 |
| Professorships in Queen's Colleges..... | 699 | Model School..... | 779 |
| Agricultural Department in National System..... | 700 | Female Department of Normal School..... | 780 |
| Model Farm at Glasnevin..... | 703 | Hints to Candidates for Admission..... | 784 |
| List of Lectures at Glasnevin..... | 707 | Normal and Model Schools of the Home and | |
| National School at Larne..... | 707 | Infant School Society..... | 787 |
| Dunmanway Model School..... | 709 | Qualifications of Candidates..... | 787 |
| Workhouse Agricultural School..... | 710 | Course of Instruction for Teachers..... | 789 |
| Operations of similar Schools in England..... | 710 | Graduated Course in the Model School..... | 795 |
| Queen's Colleges and University..... | 711 | Syllabus of Lectures on Education..... | 800 |
| ENGLAND. | | | |
| History of Public Elementary Schools, | 721 | St. Mark's College, or Training Establishment | |
| Cloister and Cathedral Schools..... | 721 | for Masters for National Schools..... | 805 |
| Benefit of Clergy to those who could read..... | 722 | General Plan, by Rev. Derwent Coleridge..... | 806 |
| Grammar and Free Schools..... | 723 | Musical Instruction..... | 812 |
| Amount of Educational endowments..... | 724 | Industrial Occupations..... | 814 |
| Voluntary Associations to promote schools..... | 725 | Schools of Practice..... | 816 |
| Sunday Schools..... | 726 | Oral Teaching..... | 820 |
| Monitorial System..... | 727 | Battersea Normal School..... | 823 |
| Joseph Lancaster..... | 728 | Condition of the Laboring Poor..... | 824 |
| Andrew Bell..... | 727 | Training of Pauper Children..... | 824 |
| British and Foreign School Society..... | 728 | Visit to Normal Schools of Switzerland..... | 826 |
| National Society..... | 729 | External Training of the Pupils..... | 826 |
| Society for promoting Christian Knowledge..... | 729 | Gymnastic Exercises..... | 830 |
| Religious Tract Society..... | 729 | Excursions into the Country..... | 831 |
| School for Adults..... | 729 | Household Life..... | 832 |
| Evening Schools..... | 729 | Intellectual Training..... | 836 |
| Infant Schools..... | 730 | Phonic Method of Teaching Reading..... | 837 |
| Mechanics Institution..... | 730 | Arithmetic..... | 838 |
| Society for Diffusion of Useful Knowledge..... | 731 | Elements of Mechanics..... | 839 |
| Central Society of Education..... | 731 | Geography..... | 839 |
| Ragged School Union..... | 731 | Drawing..... | 840 |
| Philanthropic Society's Reform School..... | 732 | Vocal Music..... | 842 |
| Schools for Pauper Children..... | 733 | Lectures on Pedagogics..... | 843 |
| Education of Children in Factories..... | 746 | Motives and Habits..... | 844 |
| Schools of Industry..... | 733 | Training of Teachers for Large Towns..... | 844 |
| Schools of Design..... | 734 | Formation of Character..... | 846 |
| Lancashire Public School Society..... | 734 | Religious Life..... | 849 |
| National Public School Association..... | 734 | Theory and Practice of Teaching..... | 851 |
| Parliamentary action in behalf of Schools..... | 735 | Results of the Experiment..... | 852 |
| Bill of Mr. Whitbread in 1807..... | 735 | Chester Diocesan Training College..... | 855 |
| Education Committee in 1816..... | 736 | Commercial and Agricultural School..... | 856 |
| Bill of Mr. Brougham 1820..... | 736 | Model School..... | 862 |
| Educational Charities..... | 736 | Statistics of the Diocese..... | 863 |
| Educational Inquiry of 1833..... | 736 | Industrial Training..... | 867 |
| Educational grant in 1833..... | 736 | Regularity of Attendance..... | 872 |
| Report of Select Committee of 1834..... | 736 | Normal Schools for Female Teachers..... | 875 |
| Efforts of Lord Brougham in 1835 and 1837..... | 737 | Whiteland Institution..... | 875 |
| Committee of Council in 1839..... | 739 | Salisbury Diocesan Institute..... | 876 |
| Action of Committee of Council on Education..... | 740 | Lectures on the Principles of Education..... | 877 |
| Appointment of James P. Kay, as Secretary..... | 741 | " Practice of Education..... | 878 |
| Aid towards School Buildings..... | 741 | Kneller Hall Training School for Teachers of | |
| " Normal School Buildings..... | 741 | Pauper Children..... | 879 |
| " Normal Pupils..... | 741 | Number of Pauper Children..... | 879 |
| " Salaries of Teachers..... | 741 | " Juvenile Criminals..... | 879 |
| " Apprentice Teachers..... | 741 | Condition of, as to Education..... | 879 |
| " School-books and Apparatus..... | 742 | Parish Apprenticeship..... | 880 |
| " Inspection of Schools..... | 742 | Pauperism Hereditary..... | 880 |
| Summary of results up to 1852..... | 745 | Workhouse Schools..... | 881 |
| Remarks of T. B. Macauley..... | 747 | Industrial Instruction..... | 882 |
| " Thomas Carlyle..... | 750 | District Pauper Schools..... | 884 |
| History and Condition of Normal Schools or | | Training School for Teachers..... | 885 |
| Training Colleges..... | 751 | Industrial Department of..... | 888 |
| Examination Papers on School Management | | Daily Routine..... | 886 |
| and Art of Teaching..... | 757 | Discipline..... | 888 |
| | | Order of Lessons..... | 889 |
| | | Model Pauper School..... | 890 |

